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SUBJECT: EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE COORDINATION TEAM: DECEMBER
10 UPDATE

REF: BAGHDAD 3174

¶1. (SBU) Summary: Post's Emergency Assistance Coordination Team continues to monitor recovery efforts from the December 8 bombings to coordinate USG assistance. At the GOI's request, PRT Baghdad sent four teams of cadaver dogs to search two blast sites. The Higher Judicial Council (HJC) reported extensive damage at its Karkh Courthouse, which it had been using as temporary headquarters following the October bombs. HJC is looking to relocate once more and is compiling a list of immediate equipment needs for possible USG assistance. Ministry of Finance (MOF) officials are still making assessments but expect the building suffered serious infrastructure damage. International organizations are providing some medical supplies to hospitals and making assessments to aid vulnerable groups who live near the blast sites. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) suffered minimal damage contrary to early press reports. End Summary.

¶2. (SBU) On December 10, PRT Baghdad's Fire Services team responded to a request from the Iraqi Civil Defense Directorate with four teams of cadaver dogs to search blast sites at the Karkh Courthouse and the MOF site in Rusafah. (Note: Cadaver dogs were also deployed to the bomb sites following the October 25 blasts. End note). The teams worked closely with MND-Baghdad and MNC-I on security and transportation to the sites. Rubble and scattered remains impeded a thorough search. Although the teams did not locate any remains, ICDD expressed appreciation for our quick response to their request.

¶3. (SBU) INL met with the HJC's DG of Finance, who is acting as HJC's senior DG since DG Haddad was seriously injured in the October 25 bombing. HJC engineers told us the Karkh Courthouse, which it had been using as temporary quarters following the October attack, suffered extensive damage with 127 injuries and seven deaths. Recovery efforts are continuing, along with debris removal. Meanwhile, HJC is making plans to relocate its court activities once again and must find space to handle its usual 4000 weekly visitors. INL is compiling a list of immediate equipment needs and security upgrades requested by the HJC.

¶4. (SBU) MOF officials told us they are still making assessments but expect to find serious infrastructure damages to the building. We will deliver several laptops this weekend, which were previously approved following the October bombing.

¶5. (SBU) International Medical Corps has provided 1000 IV sets, 500 catheters, bandages, and other equipment to Medical City and Al Kindy Hospital. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is conducting an assessment with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at four bomb sites. IOM and UNHCR will assess if vulnerable groups

require non-food items, home repairs, and water supply assistance. ICRC's head of delegation told us they are sending two War Wounded Kits to hospitals and standing by to deliver more as needed. The UK, EU, Swedish, and Danish missions confirmed they had not received any specific requests from the GOI and had no plans to provide assistance.

¶6. (SBU) USAID's Tatweer implementers reported they had been conducting training at MoLSA at the time of the bombs. Aside from several broken windows, there was no damage to the MoLSA building, which did not appear to be a target, contrary to initial press reports.

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